

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING BOB BURLESON FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE STATE OF FLORIDA

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2018

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement from the Florida Transportation Builders' Association (FTBA), I rise today to commemorate the years of service Mr. Bob Burleson has given to the state of Florida. Bob is a remarkable individual who I have had the privilege of working closely with for many years, dating back to my time in the Florida State legislature.

Mr. Burleson's retirement closes a forty year chapter in the transportation construction industry. Prior to his longstanding success at FTBA, he served as a top executive for Wiley N. Jackson Company in Virginia from 1970 to 1988. He then took the prestigious role of President of FTBA in 1989 and has remained in this capacity to this day. Due in large part to his determination and vision, Bob restored the FTBA to strong fiscal health within seven years and increased membership after previous years of steady decline.

Under his guidance at FTBA, Florida history was made in 1990 when Mr. Burleson helped secure the largest transportation funding increase for the state. Throughout his extraordinary career, he has received numerous awards, including the Golden Eagle Award by the Floridians for Better Transportation in 1997 and the CUTR's 2008 Transportation Achievement Award. Perhaps Bob's most impressive recognition was his induction into the ARTBA-TDF's Inaugural Hall of Fame, which is the nation's highest honor in the transportation construction industry, an acknowledgement which he undoubtedly deserves.

Having known Bob for many years, his determination and passion for bettering the state of Florida cannot be understated. While his approaching retirement marks a sad day for Florida, the legacy that he has imprinted will remain. I am lucky to have had the privilege of working with such a talented and honorable individual and I am grateful to be able to call Bob a close friend.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to my dear friend and mentor, Mr. Bob Burleson, for his outstanding accomplishments in the transportation construction industry, and I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

REMEMBERING MR. R.C. RILEY

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2018

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, today the First District of Kentucky fondly reflects on the life

of Mr. R.C. Riley of Benton, Kentucky. A community leader revered for his commitment to his industry, Mr. Riley served as an integral facet of business development and economic prosperity in Western Kentucky.

Mr. Riley was instrumental in the founding, management and growth of Peel & Holland Financial Group, beginning his career in 1965 and serving the organization as President, Chief Executive Officer, and Chairman of the Board. During his tenure, he was not only a distinguished industry leader known throughout the Commonwealth, but represented the region on national association boards and garnered the most prestigious nationwide accolades in the insurance industry.

On behalf of all who knew him, I send my greatest sympathies to his family, including his two sons, Roy and Keith Riley through whom his legacy lives on. I join with his family and friends to celebrate his meaningful presence in the lives of everyone he touched and honor his outstanding legacy of selfless, compassionate service to others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2018

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for Roll Call votes 314 and 315 on Tuesday, July 10, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

HONORING AND REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF TROOPER NICHOLAS CLARK

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2018

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Trooper Nicholas Clark.

A star athlete, Nick Clark made his mark at both Canisteo-Greenwood Central Schools and Alfred University. At Canisteo-Greenwood Central Schools, Nick became a two-time state champion in wrestling and excelled on the football field. While he pursued a BA in Environmental Studies at our shared Alma Mater of Alfred University, Nick was a star on the football field. He was named to the Empire 8 all-conference First Team and the conference Defensive Player of the Year for three straight seasons, breaking the Alfred University record for tackles. These accomplishments highlighted Nick's hard work and dedication that led the Buffalo Bills to offer him an invitation for a professional tryout. Following his football career, Nick directed his leadership skills and dedication towards his passion of serving others.

Nick Clark honorably served his community and the State of New York as a New York State Trooper. He graduated from the 203rd session of the Basic School in 2015 and was originally assigned to Troop C/SP Ithaca and Troop E/SP Auburn. In August 2017, Trooper Clark transferred to Troop E/SP Bath. As a lifelong resident of Steuben County, Trooper Clark spent his days at work serving the citizens that he called his friends and neighbors.

In the early morning of Monday July 2, 2018, Trooper Clark responded to a call in the town of Erwin, where he was shot and killed. He bravely answered the call to duty and lost his life while trying to selflessly protect others.

While my thoughts and prayers go out every time a member of law enforcement is killed in the line of duty, this tragedy strikes especially close to not only my home but heart. Trooper Clark bravely put his life on the line to protect his community and he should be recognized as a hero for his actions.

Trooper Clark will be missed by the communities that he served and the lives that he touched. Together, we stand with his family and friends as they mourn. I thank him for his service and pray he will rest in peace.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me to remember the life of Trooper Nicholas Clark.

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, EDUCATION, RESEARCH AND SERVICE (GUAM CEDDERS) FOR 25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2018

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the University of Guam Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education Research and Service (Guam CEDDERS) as they celebrate their 25th anniversary.

The University of Guam Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research and Service (Guam CEDDERS), previously known as Guam University Affiliated Program (Guam UAP) on Developmental Disabilities, was founded by and continues to be led by Dr. Heidi San Nicolas. She recognized the importance of Guam being funded for the full complement of Developmental Disabilities Bill of Rights and Assistance Act Federal Programs from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services including funding for a University Affiliated Program on Developmental Disabilities providing Interdisciplinary Training, Technical Assistance and Demonstration; Research, Evaluation and Dissemination of Information and best practices on Guam.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

The primary mission of UOG CEDDERS is to create partnerships and pathways to increase the quality of life of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. Since its official founding on Feb. 14, 1993, Guam CEDDERS has remained at the forefront of providing comprehensive interdisciplinary training, technical assistance, model demonstration, clinical services, research, evaluation and dissemination of information beneficial to those with developmental disabilities and their families, and advocates on Guam and in the Western Pacific Region.

Throughout the years, the organization has grown tremendously in staff, funding, and outreach. Guam CEDDERS has been able to leverage funding in excess of \$138 million to support its mission address the needs of our island's community.

Guam CEDDERS, is a dynamic, responsive and innovative organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as one of 67 National Centers of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. Guam CEDDERS is also a member of the National Association of University Center on Disabilities (AUCD); and collaborates locally with Guam's Tri-Agency DD Act partners.

Guam CEDDERS is a valuable resource having worked directly in supporting priorities and needs within Guam's local agencies. Additionally, Guam CEDDERS has implemented and collaborated with institutions of higher education in offering training programs to build capacity in serving persons with developmental disabilities throughout the community. The Center has also partnered with local and national organizations to implement a variety of research initiatives related to disability on Guam.

Guam CEDDERS has provided leadership in areas of technology on Guam through creating loan programs for assistive technology for individuals with disabilities with the first low interest loan made in 2006. They have additionally collaborated with the Guam Election Commission to ensure accessibility of voting locations; established Guam's System for Assistive Technology (GSAT) Resource Center and model accessible home; partnered with the Wheelchair Foundation and disseminated 250 wheelchairs on Guam to those in need; among many other valuable contributions.

Guam CEDDERS researched, developed, and wrote Guam's Early Learning Guidelines Supports that enabled community-based child care centers to be inclusive of children with disabilities through staff training as well as facility modifications to support the inclusion of children with disabilities.

Guam CEDDERS has supported children and youth with emotional and behavior problems through administering two SAMHSA Community Action Grants. Guam CEDDERS contributed to the organization and compilation of the first and subsequent island wide needs assessment processes and summits related to disabilities leading publication of much needed resource documents for planning, policy and program development, and likewise brought together and published proceedings from Pacific Basin Interagency Leadership Consortium meetings.

Guam CEDDERS has provided education and context to federal policymakers and local policymakers regarding policy issues at the national and local level impacting individuals with disabilities; has sponsored focused input

sessions; a Federal Public Hearing on the Reauthorization of IDEA; Summits and Conferences on topics including: Emergency Preparedness, Evaluation, Early Childhood, Inclusion, Employment, Self-Advocacy Transportation, and Assistive Technology; and has brought national leaders to Guam to provide Grand Rounds and other training opportunities to Guam's Physicians, specialists, and allied health providers.

Guam CEDDERS publishes many valuable newsletters and educational materials to serve its mission in a variety of languages and are available in accessible formats upon request, and are continuously updated and accessible through their website.

I commend the University of Guam Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, Education Research and Service Center for their tremendous contributions to Guam and the Western Pacific area. I extend my sincere congratulations to Guam CEDDERS on their 25th Anniversary.

On behalf of the people of Guam, I thank the University of Guam CEDDERS and all government agencies and community partners for their assistance in spreading disability awareness and affirming full inclusion of all individuals with disabilities as valued, contributing citizens on Guam. I look forward to countless contributions from Guam CEDDERS as they continue to create partnerships and pathways to increase the quality of life of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALEXANDER X. MOONEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2018

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, due to a family member's funeral, I was unable to attend the scheduled floor period on July 10, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 314; and YEA on Roll Call No. 315.

SOPHIA HORTIN—ILLINOIS STATE FFA PRESIDENT

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2018

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sophia Hortin for being elected Illinois' State FFA President.

Sophia's love for agriculture began on her family farm just outside of Fisher, IL. Sophia embraces all aspects of farming from cleaning grain bins, raising hogs, and even field tillage work. However, her favorite job is hauling grain to local elevators, a job Sophia has done since she got her Class B license when she was 16.

Over the course of the next calendar year, Sophia will live in Springfield, IL and work out of the State FFA office. Sophia will be leading a historic group of young leaders as she heads up the first ever all-female Illinois FFA officer team.

After Sophia completes her year-long term as State President, she will enroll in the Uni-

versity of Illinois Champaign-Urbana with the ultimate goal of becoming a teacher and FFA adviser.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to send my most sincere congratulations to Sophia Hortin for receiving this tremendous accomplishment.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 256— NATO

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2018

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, as leaders gather at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Summit this week, it is important that we send a strong message of support and commitment for trans-Atlantic security.

For more than six decades, the NATO alliance has promoted peace, freedom, and prosperity in Europe and the United States. Its continued strength is vital to America's national interests.

Mr. Speaker, I've just returned from an important trip to the Nordic and Baltic regions, where I met with partners who are facing increasing pressure from Russia. Russia's naval vessels in the Baltic Sea are ratcheting up their aggression. Russian jets frequently violate Baltic airspace. Recently, Russia conducted its largest land based military exercises to date along the border with our Baltic allies, the "ZAPAD" exercises.

General Pavel, Head of NATO's Military Committee, stated that the ZAPAD exercises appeared to be a "serious preparation for big war," and raised concerns that Russia's lack of communication with NATO forces nearby greatly increased the possibility that human or technological error could cause skirmishes and lead to a full-scale conflict.

After announcing its intention to increase collaboration and military exercises with U.S. Marines, Norway was directly threatened by Russian leaders that it would suffer "consequences" for that decision.

And our allies in the region that are not formal members of NATO, Finland and Sweden, are also feeling the pressure.

In fact, last year Sweden discovered that Russia had covertly stationed a submarine just off the coast of Stockholm.

Russia has combined its traditional military with asymmetric hostile actions, including by leveraging energy supplies for political influence as well as increasing the frequency and scope of propaganda among minority populations to destabilize and weaken Eastern and Central European countries.

House Resolution 256, authored by Congressman STEVE COHEN of Tennessee, sends a strong message of support to our allies in the region that are confronted by this increasing pressure from Russia.

Specifically, it condemns any threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of NATO allies and pledges that the U.S. will continue to maintain strong leadership and its commitments to the alliance.

It condemns Russia's ongoing illegal occupation of Crimea and supports maintaining related U.S. sanctions on Russia until Ukraine's sovereignty over that region is restored.